

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the latest Official Action, the Examiner allowed Claims 23 and 24, and provisionally allowed dependent Claims 6-16 upon being presented in independent form.

The present Amendment serves to

- (1) write dependent Claim 6 in independent form including all of the recitations of Claims 1 and 2,
- (2) to write dependent Claim 10 in independent form including all of the recitations of Claims 1 and 2, and
- (3) to write dependent Claim 13 in independent form including all of the recitations of Claim 1.

It is accordingly submitted that Claims 6, 10, and 13, and their dependent Claims 7-9, 11-12 and 14-16, are in condition for immediate allowance.

The only base claim remaining at issue is Claim 1, which has been amended to incorporate the recitations of dependent Claims 2 and 4. As such, Claim 1 is now directed to the embodiment of the melt spinning apparatus wherein an air supply device which includes an opening 34 or 39 and an air stream generator 38 or 47, is provided for generating an additional cooling air stream in the cooling tube which flows in the direction of the advancing filaments so as to minimize turbulence with the initial or primary cooling air stream in the tube. Significantly, Claim 1 recites that the opening is positioned in the cooling tube between the inlet and the outlet thereof.

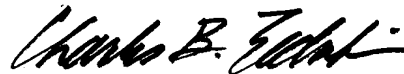
The two Mears publications which were applied to reject Claim 4, do not include an opening in the disclosed cooling tube, together with an air stream generator connected to the opening, as recited in Claim 1. Mears defines his cooling tube 35 as having an upper end 39, and thus the funnel 59 cannot be considered to be part of the cooling tube 35.

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Further, Mears fails to disclose the claimed opening in the tube. Also, even assuming the space between the upper end 39 of the cooling tube and the funnel 59 constitutes the claimed opening as the Examiner has contended, there is no teaching of the air stream generator for causing air to positively enter the cooling tube, as recited in Claim 1. These distinctions are significant and unobvious.

It is accordingly submitted that Claim 1 and dependent Claims 5, 21, and 22 are also in condition for immediate allowance, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims, are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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